

Memo/Reply From
JOSHUA LEDERBERG

TO:

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TO: Dr Brooks E Kleber

NOV 9 1980

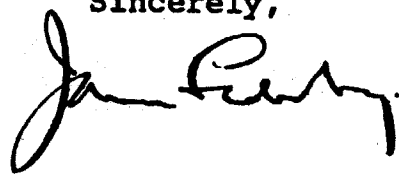
World War 2-- intelligence re German CBW

What I have particularly in mind is to trace the reports on German BW potential (referred to, e.g., in the Merck Report) that led to the establishment of our own massive program at Ft. Detrick.

I have seen only oblique references to these (note enclosure); I have not had the opportunity to see the full monograph on BW Research in the US. The archivist complained that it was over 1000 pages, and I would need more specific identification of the relevant pages -- if you could provide just those, it might help me trace further. Or any other secondary sources -- I do not know if RC Cochrane is still professionally active (or living).

Thank you for any help you can offer.

Sincerely,

Please reply
to: 

J. Lederberg Box 115
1230 York Avenue
New York, NY 10021

Joshua Lederberg
President
The Rockefeller University
New York, N.Y. 10021
(212) 398-1234

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As a member of the Defense Science Board, I have been actively involved in a reassessment of our CW posture, and in a related sphere in a study of the implications of the 'Sverdlovsk incident'. It is hard to say what would be the pertinence of WW-2 history to the current scene. However, for many years --and now more than ever -- I have been eager to get more information on the historical foundations of our own responses during and since WW-2, in re both CW and BW.

My particular request is for your help in tracing the details of the intelligence we received during WW-2 concerning German activities, intelligence that proved later to be seriously defective both in failing to detect the development of nerve gas, and in exaggerating their investment in BW.

I would have no trouble with respect to classification --if that still lingered on these topics-- but do not have the time for a personal search at CIA and Army archives without some prior leads as to the relevant documents. By chance, I noticed your name in the recent Guide..., and the footnote that connected your name with authorship of Chemicals in Combat, and this raised the hope that I might have found the expert on this facet of military history.

Can you help me?

Joshua Lederberg
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